

Carroll County Health Department

Edwin F. Singer, L.E.H.S.
Health Officer

Henry G. Taylor, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Health Officer



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

290 South Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Main: 410-876-2152

FAX: 410-876-4988

Toll-Free: 800-966-3877

Relay/TTY: 711

Website: cchd.maryland.gov

April 6, 2020

All Carroll County Retail Establishments
Concerning Social Distancing Requirements
Governor Hogan's Executive Order 20-04-05-02

Dear Retail Establishment Manager/Operator:

The Carroll County Health Department provided copies of guidance to retail establishments throughout the county last week. Many retail establishments are not following guidance and providing for social distancing that is essential to stop the spread of COVID-19. You must have implemented adequate social distancing plans by the beginning of the business day on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 or face closure. This may seem like short notice, but the information was provided over a week ago and many establishments have not complied.

In the interest of protecting the citizens of Carroll County from the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Governor has given me the authority to require modification of operations or to close retail establishments that are not complying with social distancing guidelines. More information about how to comply with guidelines can be found <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html> and local guidance documents will be located at <https://cchd.maryland.gov/covid-19-information-for-special-groups/>. If you would like to speak with one of our staff, call our COVID-19 call center at 410-876-4848, 7 days a week from 8:00am-5:00pm. Some of the strategies include marking floors to ensure adequate distance between customers, limiting the number of people at one time in the facility, establishing customer flow patterns to avoid contact between your customers, etc. It is also imperative to disinfect surfaces that customers regularly touch, including shopping carts, door handles, checkout areas, and other high-touch surfaces.

We will be encouraging Carroll County citizens to report issues with social distancing in retail establishments. If we find establishments not complying with these requirements, I will issue an Order to require the establishment to close until a social distancing plan is developed and implemented. We can provide guidance on a plan, but it is up to management of each retail establishment to determine what will work for them and ensure a safe environment for your customers. Repeated violations of social distancing requirements will result in an Order to close for the duration of the emergency.

Page 2
All Carroll County Retail Establishments
April 6, 2020

I know some establishments have taken steps to protect our community and I thank those responsible businesses. If you have not yet implemented sufficient protocols for social distancing, you need to develop a plan and implement it immediately. Thanks for providing for the essential needs of our residents and helping to keep them safe and healthy.

Very truly yours,

Edwin F. Singer, L.E.H.S.
Health Officer

- continued -